re persistently free for a very long period, and in some cases ever become ankylosed with their vertebrae. But it should be oted that in this group there is no approximation to the state f affairs which exists in many lower Yertebrates, where there is gradual transition between the ribs of the cervical and those of le dorsal region of the vertebral column ; for that of the seventh Ibs in Monotremes is smaller than those which precede it.

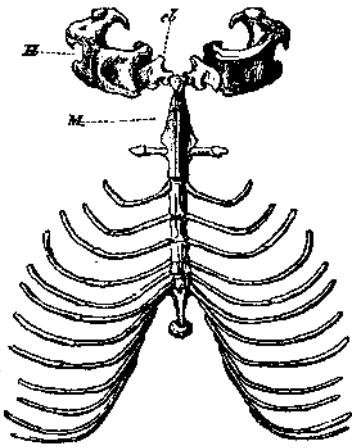

Fig. 18.- Sternum and sternal ribs of the Common Mole *(Talpa, europaea),* with the clavicles *(cl)* and humeri

The Sternum. — All the Mammalia so far as is known possess sternum. This is the bone, p series of bones (sternebrae), hich lies upon the ventral urface of the chest, and to hich the ribs are attached slow. The development of le sternum has been shown > take place from the fusion of le ribs below into two lateral mds, one on each side; the yproximation of these bands •rms the single and unpaired >ernum of most mammals. ery considerable traces, how- rer, of the paired state of the lernal bones often exist ; thus L the Sperm. Whale the first Lece of the sternum is divided ito two by a longitudinal L Vision, and the Second piece longitudinally grooved. The 3velopment of the sternum at of the fused ends of ribs is shown in a more com- Lete condition, in some specis of *Manis* than in many other lammals. Thus in *M. tricuspis* the last ribs of those which are itached to the sternum are completely fused together into a ngle piece on each side.[1] As a general rule the last ribs hich come into relation with the sternum do so only in an uperfect way, being simply firmly attached at their sides to, at not fused with, the last ribs which are

definitely articulated ith the sternum. Contrary to what is found in lower Verfce-

[1] Ehlor's *ZooL MisMvn,.* \,